

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 237836

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 237836

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR, XA, PFOR

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON AFRICA

1. NEW YORK TIMES, SEPTEMBER 24, CONTAINS DAVID SHIPLER ARTICLE ON SOVIET REACTIONS TO U.S. AFRICAN INITIATIVE PURPORTEDLY QUOTING AMERICAN DIPLOMAT IN MOSCOW. QUOTATION STATES, "IT SEEMS TO ME THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS ARE SO SLIGHT THAT THEY NEEDN'T GET SO WORKED UP."

2. EMBASSY COMMENTS REQUESTED. EMBASSY OFFICERS SHOULD NOT COMMENT FURTHER TO THE PRESS ON THESE ISSUES.

3. FYI SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS ASKED IN LONDON, SEPTEMBER 23, "DO YOU THINK THAT PERHAPS YOU HAVE PULLED IT OFF ONCE AGAIN?" HE REPLIED, "I AM HOPEFUL THAT WE WILL PROCEED, BUT I DO NOT WANT TO SAY THAT ANY ONE PERSON PULLED IT OFF. WE WORKED VERY CLOSELY WITH THE BRITISH
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PAGE 02 STATE 237836

GOVERNMENT AND, AFTER ALL, ON A BRITISH PLAN." REGARDING

RHODESIAN REACTION, THE SECRETARY SAID, "I THINK MATTERS
HAVE GONE SO FAR THAT IT WOULD BE SURPRISING IF THEY
TURNED IT DOWN." END FYI. KISSINGER

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